



An Cirean Ceann Cinnidh

# CLAN ROSS

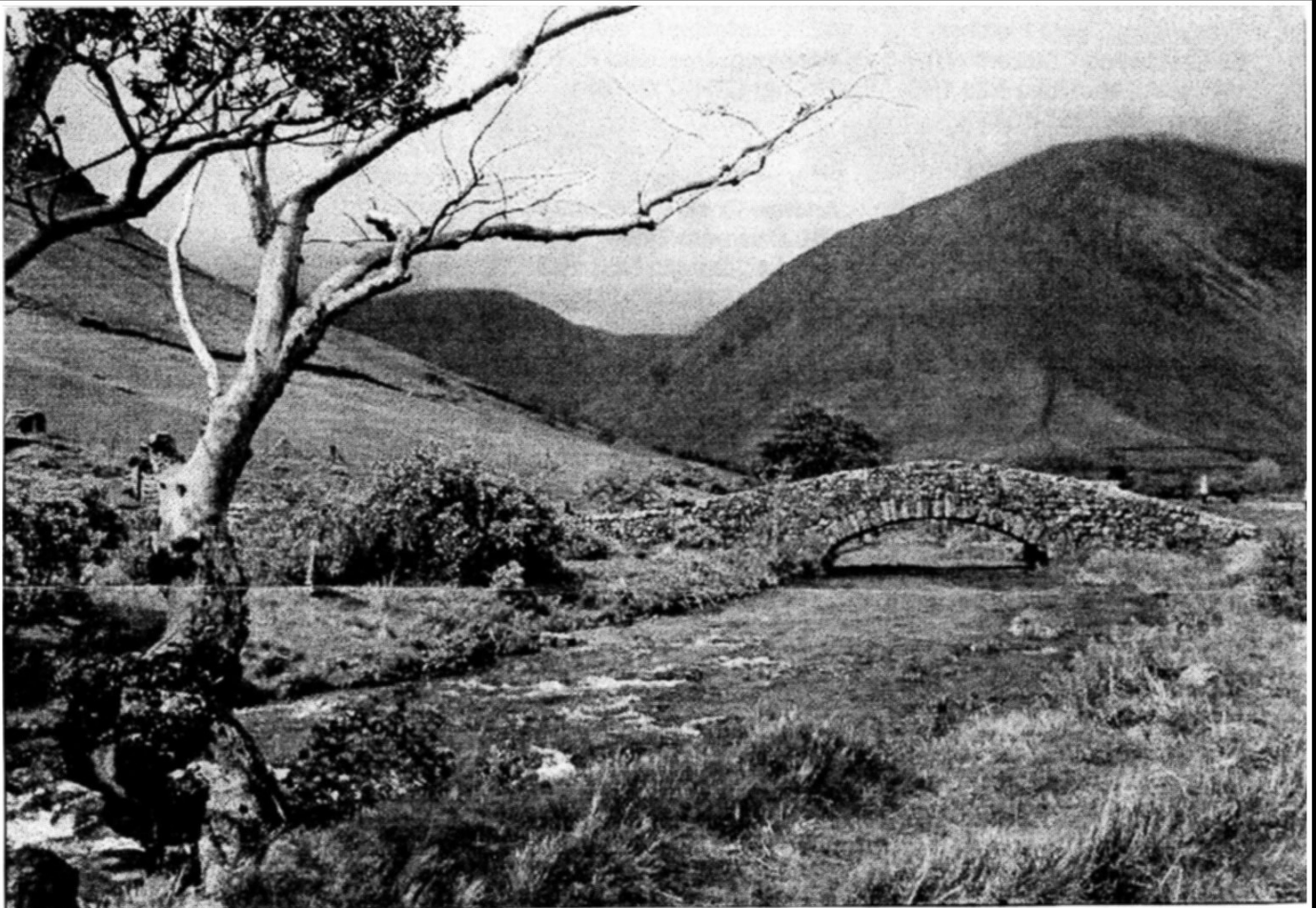
Association  
of Canada, Inc.

Founded 1960

David C. Ross of Ross, Chief

SPRING ISSUE

MAY 2005



A SCENE IN THE HIGHLANDS. IMAGINE YOURSELF HIKING THROUGH THIS GLEN, PERHAPS STOPPING TO TRY YOUR LUCK FOR A SILVERY TROUT...A FINE DINNER LATER BY THE FIRE, WITH A DRAM TO TOAST THE HEALTH OF YOUR FRIENDS. HASTE YE BACK!

# CLAN ROSS

**MOTTO:** Spem successus alit (Success nourishes hope)  
**Gaelic Name:** Clann Aindrias (Clan Andrew)  
**CREST:** A hand holding a garland of juniper, proper  
**BADGE:** Juniper  
**PIPE MUSIC:** The Earl of Ross's March  
**SEPTS:** (according to Scottish Kith & Kin/Chief of Clan Ross)

Anderson	Denoon	Gear	MacCulloch	Taggart
Andison	Denune	Gillanders	MacLulich	Tullo
Andrew/s	Dingwall	Hagart	MacTaggart	Tulloch
Corbet/tt	Duthie	Haggart	MacTear	Tyre
Crow/e	Fair	MacAndrew	MacTier	Vass
Croy	Gair	MacCullie	MacTire	Wass

## OFFICERS:

**President:**  
 Denis Fletcher  
**Treas/Mbsp:** Barb Fletcher  
 66 Crestwood Crescent  
 Winnipeg, Manitoba R2J 1H6  
 Phone: (204) 257-7511

**Past President/Historian**  
 J. Donaldson Ross  
 84 Brant Street East  
 Orillia, Ontario L3V 1Z2  
 Phone: (705) 326-3438  
 Fax: (705) 325-6639  
 manbook@sympatico.ca

**1st Vice-President:**  
 Donald R. Ross  
 1234 Downing Street  
 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 2R7  
 Phone: (204) 775-7631

**2nd Vice-President:**  
 Andrew Ross Thibodeau  
 910 Dearness Drive  
 London, Ontario N6E 1N5  
 Phone: (519) 680-7332  
 talk2andyt@aol.com

**Secretary:** Ian M. Ross  
**Newsletter** (published quarterly):  
 Ian & Jacquie Ross  
 273 Stradford Street  
 Winnipeg, Manitoba R2Y 2E1  
 Phone: (204) 832-3773  
 Fax: first call (204) 832-3773  
 imross@mts.net

**Website:**  
<http://www.GreatClanRoss.org>  
 Webmaster: J. Douglas Ross

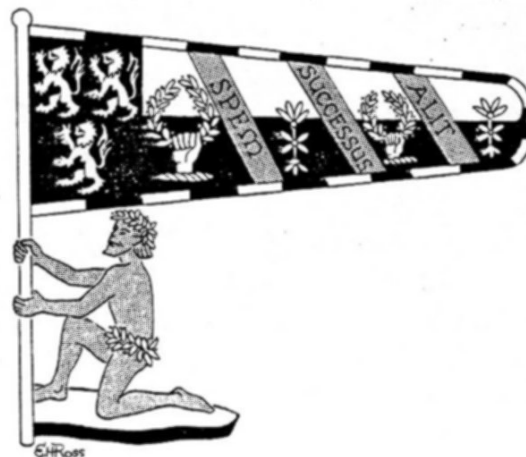
## COMMISSIONERS:

**Ontario:**  
 Wendy S.F. Ross  
 74 Queenston Street  
 St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 2Z2  
 Phone: (905) 684-7758

**Nova Scotia:**  
 Christopher Rayworth  
 520 Tattenham Crescent  
 Hammonds Plains, NS B4B 1V3  
 Phone: (902) 832-9280  
 smore@ns.sympatico.ca

**Manitoba:**  
 Christine Turnbull  
 19 Abraham Bay  
 Winnipeg, Manitoba R2P 1E9  
 Phone: (204) 633-5888  
 mbtartan@escape.ca

**British Columbia:**  
 Dorothy O'Donnell  
 1415 Hamilton Road  
 Victoria, BC V8R 2Y2  
 Phone: (250) 595-5365  
 dmodonnell@shaw.ca



Standard of Chief David Campbell Ross of Shandwick

## COMING EVENTS

June 2-4: Halifax, NS. Celtic Feis of music, dance, art and storytelling in venues across the city. See: [www.halifaxcelticfeis.ca](http://www.halifaxcelticfeis.ca).

June 3-5: Arlington, TX. Clan Ross – USA Annual General Meeting. Details on Clan Ross – USA website: [www.RossClan.org/USA.htm](http://www.RossClan.org/USA.htm).

June 11: Abbotsford, BC. Sons of Scotland Games. Info at: [www.eteamz.com/sonsofscotland](http://www.eteamz.com/sonsofscotland)

June 11: Georgetown, ON. Highland Games at the Fairgrounds. Info: (905) 584-5440.

June 12: Hamilton, ON. International Tattoo at Copps Coliseum. Info: (905) 523-1753.

June 20-21: North Bay, ON. Celtfest in Callander. Info: [www.celtfest.org](http://www.celtfest.org)

June 25: Coquitlam, BC. United Scottish Highland Games. Info: [www.bchighlandgames.com](http://www.bchighlandgames.com)

June 25: Red Deer, AB: Highland Games. Info: [www.reddeerhighlandgames.ca](http://www.reddeerhighlandgames.ca)

July 2: Selkirk, MB. Manitoba Highland Gathering in Selkirk City Park. Info: (204) 269-1304

July 3: Winnipeg Beach, MB. "Bands on the Boardwalk" at the Provincial Recreation Park. Info: (204) 389-5126.

July 10-14: Antigonish, NS. Scotsdance Canada Championships at the Keating Millenium Centre. Info: [www.scotdancecanada.com](http://www.scotdancecanada.com)

July 15-17: Antigonish, NS. 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Highland Games.

July 15-17: Orillia, ON. Scottish Festival at Couchiching Beach Park. Info: (705) 325-8442

July 16: Toronto, ON. Scottish Fiddle Orchestra at the Hummingbird Centre. Info/tickets: (416) 872-2262.

July 23-24: Uxbridge, ON. Highlands of Durham Games. Info: [www.highlandsofdurhamgames.com](http://www.highlandsofdurhamgames.com)

July 31-Aug. 6: Winnipeg, MB. Scottish Pavilion, Folklorama at the Heather Curling Club.

Aug. 13-21: Lower Fort Garry (near Selkirk), MB. Red River Reunion of descendants of Manitoba's original fur trade families. Many events including gala dinner August 17. Info: [www.redriverdescendantsreunion.org](http://www.redriverdescendantsreunion.org)

August 14: Winnipeg, MB. Reopening of the 1851 Old Kirk (first Presbyterian Church west of the Great Lakes) for a service in conjunction with the Red River Reunion at 10:30 a.m., 2373 Main Street, just off John Black Avenue.



## NOVA SCOTIA NEWS

New Commissioner Christopher Rayworth recently wrote to all Nova Scotia members asking for volunteers to form an Executive to revive a formal Nova Scotia Chapter. He is looking for a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested contact Christopher at (902) 832-9280 or [smore@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:smore@ns.sympatico.ca)

Christopher also solicited ideas on Nova Scotia events to support. He hopes to have enough member support to run a Clan Ross tent at: Halifax Games, Antigonish Games, New Glasgow Games, Pictou Hector Festival and the Pugwash Gathering of the Clans.

(At the last National Executive Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Andrew Thibodeau of London, Ontario advised that...as he was attending the Antigonish Games in support of his Clan Hunter in-laws...he would bring along his Clan Ross tent and display for Christopher's use. Now that's support!)

## LONDON IN THE SPRING (2006 AGM)

Start your planning now to attend what promises to be a terrific Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 23-25, 2006 in London, Ontario. Our host, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Andrew Ross Thibodeau has some most interesting plans underway (all subject to confirmation):

Friday evening, June 23

7:30 p.m.: Our traditional get together of Clan Ross-Canada members from coast to coast. There will be cocktails, snacks, informal entertainment and the usual tall tales of what we've been doing since the 2004 AGM in Winnipeg.

Saturday, June 24

9:30 - 4:30 p.m.: A guided tour to Chatham, Ontario and its complex of historical sites marking the Canadian terminus of the Underground Railroad. The main stop would be Uncle Tom's Cabin., commemorating the life of Rev. Josiah Henson, whose experiences inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous novel which helped raise awareness of the brutality of slavery. We hope to be able to unveil a plaque to Dr. Alexander Milton Ross, who helped make this escape route for slaves possible.

-side trips may include the restored Skah Nah Doht Iroquois village and RM Classic Cars museum.

-A gala dinner that evening will feature remarks by Steven Duff (author of "Hunter of Dreams", the life of Dr. A.M. Ross), Scottish Country Dancing and a traditional Scottish folk band "The Gaels".

Sunday, June 25

10:30 optional church service at Chalmers Presbyterian followed by lunch and the formal AGM meeting in the church hall.

- that evening join hosts Andrew and his wife for an informal backyard BBQ (bring your tartan swim-wear for the pool!)

And throughout there will be time to visit such London landmarks as: Sir Frederick Banting House (inventor of insulin), Fanshawe pioneer Village, The Secrets of RADAR Museum, winery and brewery tours, Guy Lombardo Museum (the bandleader who made Auld Lang Syne a New Year's favourite around the world) and, if you have kids, Storybook Gardens.

Plan your time off now and keep your eyes peeled for the official registration form in our up coming newsletters.

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING April 24, 2005

At their most recent meeting your executive:

- started investigations into registering Clan Ross-Canada as a charitable organization
- selected the next National Project, honouring Dr. Alexander Milton Ross (see story elsewhere)
- noted that the last National Project (restoration of Ross Pioneer headstones in Old Kildonan Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg) would be complete by publication of this newsletter
- decided to pursue establishing an Associate Member category
- agreed to members-only access to the Constitution and By-Laws via our website [www.GreatClanRoss.org](http://www.GreatClanRoss.org)
- agreed on June 23-25, 2006 as the dates for the next "long-weekend-open-to-all-members-get-together" Annual General Meeting in London, Ontario (see story elsewhere).

## OUR NEXT NATIONAL PROJECT

Past President J. Don Ross of Orillia and Ontario Commissioner Wendy Ross have been pondering a number of possible Ontario projects from which to choose our next Clan Ross-Canada National Project. We have had projects in Victoria, BC, Winnipeg, MB, Pictou, NS and Lord Selkirk Park, PEI...but none so far in Ontario.

Last month J. Don outlined three possible choices to the National Executive:

1. Commemoration of Ross Township (pioneer settlement on the Ottawa River north of Renfrew).
2. Commemoration of J.K. Ross, one of the founders of the original Clan Ross-Canada (1911) at the hospital he endowed in Lindsay, Ontario.
3. Commemoration of Dr. Alexander Milton Ross, born in Belleville, Ontario, who was a prominent ornithologist and abolitionist. He helped develop the Underground Railroad, which spirited runaway slaves to a safe haven in Canada in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

When President Denis asked our two Ontario Executive members (J. Don Ross and Andrew Ross Thibodeau) for their recommendation, they pointed out that all three were very worthy. They noted, however, that there were no commemorative plaques yet in existence for Dr. A.M. Ross and that initial contacts had been made with the Underground Railroad Historical Site in Chatham, Ontario, where a commemorative plaque would be seen by a large volume of people.

The Executive unanimously agreed on recommended project #3 honouring Dr. A.M. Ross's scientific and humanitarian work. J. Don will pursue joint funding with Ontario Provincial Heritage and, with Andrew's contact assistance, a plaque located at the Underground Railroad (Uncle Tom's Cabin) site in Chatham. It will be great if this can be in place for a formal unveiling at the June, 2006 AGM!

To all members who have already made a donation, specific project unknown, to our "Next National Project"... a big thank you. We already have \$265.00 in the bank. Now that the specifics are known we hope that ALL of you will consider donating, especially our Ontario members. The total cost of a plaque will be in the \$1,500.00 range, less government support. We suggest a \$25.00 donation, but any amount is appreciated. Send your cheques, made out to Clan Ross-Canada and noted "Dr. A.M. Ross Memorial – In Trust", to Treasurer Barbara Fletcher at 66 Crestwood Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R2J 1H6.

Want to know more about Dr. A.M. Ross? See your library or bookseller for Steven Duff's informative book "Hunter of Dreams".



## TAIN THROUGH THE CENTURIES RE-PRINT

May sees the launch of a re-print of Tain Through The Centuries, the history of Tain (long time Clan Ross centre) commissioned by Tain Town Council as part of their 9<sup>th</sup> Centenary Celebrations in 1966. It was written by the late R.W. Munro, FSA Scot., an historian and journalist born in Ross-shire, and his wife Dr. Jean Munro (nee Dunlop) an Honours Graduate in History and Ph.D. of Edinburgh university. This book remains the most comprehensive history of Tain ever to be written. Apart from a brief Foreword summarizing the main changes/developments of the last 39 years and a new cover, this paperback re-print appears in the original form of the first edition.

In ten chapters and over 40,000 words the Munros deal with Tain's physical setting and origins and trace its development from its early associations with St. Duthus and Malcolm Canmore; from Sanctuary and place of privilege through the unsettled times of the 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries; from the building of the St. Duthus Church and its establishment as a Collegiate Church to the Reformation; from ecclesiastical centre and pilgrim resort to a burgh administered by a Town Council within which trade, commerce and local craftsmen flourished; through the period of the Civil War (1639-51) and the Covenanters to the Union of the Parliaments and the consequent influence of politics both local and national. The main factors that shaped Tain's 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century development – the establishment of St. Duthus Lodge of Freemasons, the birth of Tain Royal Academy, the Disruption out of which the Free Church emerged and the coming of the railway are also explored in detail. Throughout it all we are introduced to the people, the landed families and clans, who made it all happen and created Tain as it was in 1966.

There is much of interest in Tain Through the Centuries not only for people with Tain and Easter Ross associations, but also for any interested in Scotland's history generally. It will retail for £9.99 and can be ordered online at [www.tainmuseum.org.uk](http://www.tainmuseum.org.uk). For those without internet access contact: Tain & District Museum, Tower Street, Tain, Ross-shire IV19 1DY, Scotland or call: 01862 894089.

## CEUD MILE FAILTE

A hundred thousand welcomes to new members:

Kristina Anderson, Winnipeg, MB  
Lynwood & Marie Anderson, Fort Frances, ON  
Campbell & Judith Ross, Grande Prairie, AB  
Susan Wilson-Tait & Bruce Tait, Grand Valley, ON  
William Wilson, Grand Valley, ON

## FAMILY HISTORY CORNER

For all you avid genealogists here is some useful information courtesy of Clan Ross-USA genealogist Fran Bumann:

- \* the 1901 Census for Canada index is now available free online at  
<http://www.automatedgenealogy.com/census/cache/index.html>
- \* A master index for the 1851 Census of the Highlands is now available at  
<http://www.HighlandFHS.org.UK/HFHSResearch.asp>

## SPEM SUCCESSUS ALIT? (Part II of II)

[Editor's Note; Clan Member Campbell Ross continues his delvings into the correct translation of the Ross Motto. In Part I, last newsletter, he appeared to come to a dead end in finding support for his thought that "Hope nourishes success" made more sense than the standard translation of "Success nourishes hope". If you have a view on this contact Campbell at 10105-94<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Grande Prairie, AB, T8V 0K7 or e-mail: caross@telusplanet.net].

So I turned to print sources that were accessible through academic interlibrary loan in Canada. The first was from the University of Guelph, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry* by Arthur Charles Fox-Davies, originally published in 1909, which emphasized the different legal status of the motto within family arms in England and Scotland. Whereas in England *the motto is never mentioned or alluded to in the terms of the patent in a grant of arms*, in Scotland *the matter is on an entirely different footing. The motto is included within the terms of the patent....It therefore becomes inalienable and unchangeable without a rematriculation*. He also noted that *the Just as at the present time a man may and often does adopt a maxim upon which he will model his life, some pithy proverb, or some trite observation, without any question or reference to armorial bearings – so, in the old days, when learning was less diffuse and when proverbs and sayings had a wider vogue than at present, did many families and many men adopt for their use some form of words*.

This proverb-like statement sounded like the type to which the Ross motto belonged. If mottoes as part of heraldry are indeed treated with much more rigour in Scotland, then when were the Arms for the chief of Clan Ross registered and what do we know about the supervision of the application? Very few private manuscript records of arms survived the destruction of records during Oliver Cromwell's occupation in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1672 an Act of the Scottish Parliament created one central public register: Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, aka the Lyon Register. And so I wrote again to the wonderfully patient and courteous Lyon Clerk, Mrs. Roads, also in January, 2005, asking for any background information on the application to have the armorial bearings for the chief of Clan Ross be placed in the Lyon Register. She wrote:

*I can confirm that Arms are on record in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in name of General Charles Ross of Balnagowan who died in 1732, and the arms recorded for him are regarded as the Chiefly Arms, although he is not designed (sic) as Chief of the Name of Ross in the recording.*

*The position in 1672 was that individuals were required to hand in their Arms for recording in the Public Register, and the Lord Lyon of the day would have been in a position to confirm with them the accuracy of their Arms. For instance, information could have been derived from pre-1672 armorials. I cannot, however, give you any further details of the checking procedure at that time, and it would not have been the case that there would have been a verified translation of the motto. Of course, at that time every educated person had a strong understanding of the Latin.*

I do think that, in the most courteous way, she was admonishing me to accept what tradition handed down as the intended translation of our clan motto. And I would – if it had not been for something written in another print source that arrived courtesy of our inter-library loan, this time from the university library of St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish. Alexander Polson wrote *The Romance of Scottish Crests and Mottoes* around 1920. While stating that the crest most commonly used by the Ross Clan is a hand holding a garland of laurel, and the motto, *Spem successus alit*, Success nourishes hope, he does note that one branch of the clan had a fox's head and the motto, *Spes aspera levat*, Hope lightens dangers. He goes on to disparage anyone's choice of a fox as a crest, but my attention was caught by the alternative motto, which reflected exactly the inspiring role of hope rather than make it an incidental byproduct of success already achieved. How could two mottoes for the same clan point in two opposite directions? And here the Latin was absolutely clear as to subject and object. It makes me dig my heels in and continue to think that someone made a mistake a long time ago and we have just let it slide.

But you may think quite otherwise.

## THE IMMORTAL MEMORY

[Part 2 of 2. An abridged version of Archie McNicol's novel presentation at the Clan Ross-Manitoba Burns Dinner, comparing Burns with The Beatles]

Now let's move on,

*Let me tell you how it will be. There's one for you, nineteen for me.*

*'Cause I'm the taxman, yeah, I'm the taxman*

*Should five per cent appear too small, be thankful I don't take it all*

*'Cause I'm the taxman, yeah I'm the taxman"*

This song was written by Harrison and Lennon, and was a scathing indictment of the British taxation system. This however was not new. Some 2 centuries earlier Robert Burns wrote a couple of pieces of sheer genius which not only decried taxation but, somewhat humorously, suggested a fate for tax collectors.

Firstly, in *To Collector Mitchell* he wrote:

*Friend of the Poet tried and leal, Wha wanting thee might beg or steal;*

*Alake, alake, the meikle Deil wi' a' his witches*

*Are at it, skelpin jig an' reel in my poor pouches!"*

Then, of course, we have:

*"We'll mak our maut, and we'll brew our drink, We'll laugh, sing, and rejoice, man,*

*And mony braw thanks to the meikle black deil, That danc'd awa wi' th' Exciseman"*

Of course, the exquisite irony in all of this is in the Beatles famous last line *"Cause I'm the taxman"* – Burns, following failure in farming, undertook the role as an Exciseman – poacher turned keeper.

The mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries were both periods of terrific social upheaval and political unrest. In their day

Lennon and McCartney captured this with a couple of pieces:

*"You say you want a revolution. Well, you know*

*We all want to change the world*

*You tell me that it's evolution. Well, you know*

*We all want to change the world"*

And its sister piece:

*"I'm back in the U.S.S.R. You don't know how lucky you are boy Back in the U.S.S.R. "*

Burns too was interested in what was happening in the wider world. This was a time of great upheaval across the globe and I think that it is fair to say that Burns had his finger on the pulse to a degree much more than would be expected of an Ayrshire farmer. He was aware of international events, such as the American War of Independence, about which he wrote the prophetic words that he felt that the "fourth of July will be sacred to their posterity",

Burns also wrote the *"Ode for General Washington's Birthday"* which is one of his most under-rated pieces;

*"See gathering thousands, while I sing, A broken chain exulting bring,*

*And dash it in a tyrant's face, And dare him to his very beard,*

*And tell him he no more is fear'd, No more the despot of Columbia's race!*

*A tyrant's proudest insults brav'd, They shout a People freed! They hail an Empire sav'd!"*

Burns was also a known supporter of the French Revolution. Indeed his support is known to have cost him at least temporarily his friendship with Mrs. Dunlop who lost relatives in that bloody event. Burns mentioned the French Revolution briefly in his *"The Tree of Liberty"*:

*"Heard ye o' the Tree o' France, And wat ye what's the name o't?*

*Around it a' the patriots dance -- Weel Europe kens the fame o't!*

*It stands where ance the Bastille stood -- A prison built by kings, man,*

*When Superstition's hellish brood kept France in leading-strings, man"*

Burns is also known to have read Tom Paine's 1791 book *"The Rights of Man"* which argued for equal political suffrage for all men over twenty-one in Britain, progressive taxation, family allowances, old age pensions, maternity grants and the abolition of the House of Lords.

In late 1794 Burns produced a work which, with unbelievable indifference, he described as being "two or three pretty good prose thoughts, inverted into rhyme ... not really poetry

*Is there for honest Poverty, That hings his head, an' a' that?*

*The coward slave, we pass him by -- We dare be poor for a' that!*



*For a' that, an' a' that, Our toils obscure an' a' that,  
The rank is but the guinea's stamp, The Man's the gowd for a' that."*

This, for me is the essence of Burns, he was a humanitarian, a libertarian and an equalitarian. The important concepts for Burns were the basic rights of freedom, liberty and equality, not only for God's chosen people of Scotland, but for everyone.

Burns goes on to conclude that great work with:

*"Then let us pray that come it may (As come it will for a' that)  
That Sense and Worth o'er a' the earth shall bear the gree, an' a' that!  
For a' that, an' a' that, It's comin yet for a' that,  
That man to man the world o'er shall brithers be for a' that."*

I was reading to my daughter last week and realized that her favourite poet, and probably the outstanding American poet of the last couple of centuries, Dr. Seuss, summed up the same sentiments in Horton Hears a Who with:

*"I'll just have to save him. Because after all,  
A person's a person, no matter how small"*

Unfortunately The Beatles never expressed precisely these sentiments, or did they? Perhaps in their more simplistic manner, Lennon and McCartney are in fact more to the point when they write *"All you need is love"*

Robert Burns was a one-off, his poetry and songs are unique, he is a true Scottish Icon. For me, however, it is the deeper sentiments of Universal Brotherhood expressed in his works which are timeless and which in our hectic 21<sup>st</sup> century life deserve us to pause and consider.

Ladies and Gentlemen please join me in the Toast to The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns.

## SCOTTISH HUMOUR

Tourist: "I'm sorry, waiter, but I only have enough money to pay the bill. I've noting left for a tip."

Highland Waiter: "Let me just add up that bill again, sir."

\*\*\*

Sandy: "Will you marry me?"

Girlfriend: "No. But I'll always admire your good taste."

\*\*\*

Donald MacPherson, a very tight man, was looking for a birthday gift for a friend. Everything was too expensive except for a broken crystal decanter, which he could buy for almost nothing. He asked the store to send it, hoping his friend would think it had been broken in transit. In due time he received a thank-you card from his friend. "Many thanks for the decanter," it read. "And how thoughtful of the store to gift-wrap each piece separately."

\*\*\*

Scots are quite expert at golf because they realize the fewer times you hit the ball, the longer it will last!

## ROSS CHOCOLATES

Did you know? Thanks to a couple of Canadian Ross entrepreneurs, people around the world can enjoy healthier chocolates.

In Scotch Creek, BC, on the north shore of Shuswap Lake, Bob and Lynda Ross started their business producing premium, sugar-free chocolates. This was of special interest to diabetics...as well as the rest of us chocoholics! After several expansions, their chocolates are now available across Canada, the USA, Britain and the rest of Europe, with monthly sales approaching one million dollars. Inquire at your local health food store.

## WORDS OF WISDOM

- from the collection of Eldon Ross

To make a profit, invest in yourself. The more you learn, the more you earn.

To have friends is to be rich.

Your family is a reflection of yourself.

Ideas are like arrows. One is bound to hit the target.

## POSITION FILLED (HURRAY!)

- BY THE SOON-TO-BE-EX-CO-EDITORS, IAN AND JACQUIE ROSS

In December 1993, the two of us produced our first Clan Ross-Canada newsletter, having taken over from J. "Don" Ross of Orillia. Don had just moved to Past National President, Bill McCullough of Winnipeg had become the new National President and a bunch of us in Winnipeg were quite enthused over the movement of Clan Ross-Canada "corporate headquarters" from Mississauga.

Neither of us would have guessed that we would still be "cranking out the newsletter" 11 ½ years later, for a total of 37 issues (yes...we missed the target of four seasonal issues yearly...several times!) During that time we hope that we have brought you some news, some insight into Scottish history and tradition and a few chuckles. We have certainly tried not to take the newsletter too seriously.

We are most fortunate to have (as of the Summer 2005 issue, to be published in August) a very capable new editor to replace us. Shelagh Rayworth is the daughter of retired Nova Scotia Commissioner Greg Ross and mother of new commissioner Christopher Rayworth. How's that for a strong Clan Ross connection! She also brings the writing skills of a former senior elementary school English teacher.

Shelagh will, no doubt, also bring an interesting combination of diplomacy and fearlessness to the post. After all, she has been Deputy Mayor of Amherst, a founder of the Ann Murray Centre, Executive Director of Amherst's Downtown Business Improvement District and a founder and Executive Director of a local woman's shelter. This skill and experience will no doubt guarantee Shelagh's success in her objective of bringing Clan Ross-Canada members even closer together through the newsletter.

But, she cannot do it alone. In our first issue we urged members to send in their:

- \*bits of Scots folklore or Ross history
- \*family ancestry research
- \*recipes
- \*accounts of travel to Scotland
- \*Scottish humour: stories, jokes or cartoons
- \*accounts of local Clan Ross activities
- \*letters to the editor (irate or otherwise)

We now encourage you to do likewise for Shelagh (we will!). You can contact the new editor at: Shelagh Rayworth, 73 Spring Street, Amherst, Nova Scotia B4H 1S6 (902) 667-5901, [shelagh-rayworth@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:shelagh-rayworth@ns.sympatico.ca)

Good luck, Sheila! Ian and Jacquie Ross, signing off.